

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-12

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COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

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STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01

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ARA/BR:DKEMP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: COFFEE

REF: LONDON 12674

1. IN HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, SATURDAY, SEPT. 28, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA ASKED OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD A NEW INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT AND ASK AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS TO RESPOND.

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2. AS REPORTED REFTEL AND PREVIOUS, THE U.S. DELEGATION

TO THE JUST CONCLUDED INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL SUPPORTED THE PRODUCER INITIATIVE TO SET UP THE MECHANISM FOR NEGOTIATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT WITH ECONOMIC PROVISIONS. OUR DELEGATION ALSO SUPPORTED THE EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT WHICH HAS NO ECONOMIC PROVISIONS, FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR (TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1976) TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TIME FOR THE NEGOTIATION, RATIFICATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE OF A NEW AGREEMENT.

3. THE U.S. HAS NOT ADOPTED FIRM POSITIONS ON THE NATURE OF NEW ECONOMIC PROVISIONS, BUT WELCOMES AND WILL STUDY CAREFULLY ANY PROPOSALS MADE BY OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES. WE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE GOB'S VIEWS ON THE FORM AND TIMING OF A NEW AGREEMENT. (FYI. AS REPORTED

REFTEL, BRAZILIAN DELEGATION TO ICO MEETING VERY CAUTIOUSLY SOUGHT TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF BASIC POLICY ISSUES. END FYI).

4. BASICALLY, WE ARE PREPARED TO MOVE AS FAST AS BRAZIL AND THE OTHER MAJOR PRODUCERS WANT TO MOVE. IN THE MEANTIME, WE HOPE THE PRODUCERS REALIZE THAT RENEWED UNILATERAL ACTION ON THEIR PART TO MANIPULATE MARKETS AND PRICES SUCH AS LED TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE 1968 AGREEMENT IN 1972, WOULD CREATE A SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF ANY NEW AGREEMENT. WE WERE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED BY THE RECENT FLURRY OF PRESS REPORTS FROM LONDON THAT SOME PRODUCERS ARE AGAIN CONSIDERING A RETENTION SCHEME TO RAISE PRICES OUTSIDE THE ICA FRAMEWORK.

5. THE AMBASSADOR MAY DRAW ON THE FOREGOING IN RESPONDING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S INQUIRY, INGERSOLL

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